

Battery Recycling Update

New Guidelines & Suggestions



The Regional Recycling Coordinating Committee (R2C2) is launching an effort to promote the use and recycling of rechargeable batteries. New studies reveal how dramatically battery choices can save money, energy, and the environment. One study shows that, for a same quantity of energy produced, *rechargeable batteries have up to 32 times less impact on the environment than disposable batteries*. Because of these studies, new regulations, and high costs of recycling, several changes will occur:

- **SINGLE-USE** (alkaline & carbon zinc “button batteries”) **BATTERY RECYCLING WILL END IN MID-AUGUST FOR INGHAM COUNTY RESIDENTS**
- **OLD DROP-OFF SITES CLOSE / NEW DROP-OFF LOCATIONS OPEN** (locations on back)
- **NEW DROP-OFF LOCATIONS WILL ONLY ACCEPT RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES** (*If it's rechargeable, it's recyclable*: Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), and Small Sealed Lead* (Pb).

Easier on the Environment and the Pocketbook

Some rechargeable batteries can be recharged 1000 times or more, saving hundreds of dollars over their lifetime. Their use will keep hundreds of batteries out of the landfill over their lifetime. They also have....

- less than 5% of the non-renewable natural resources consumed
- 1/20 the impact on global climate change (CO₂)
- over ten times less of an impact on water pollution
- up to 30 times less air pollution and 9 TIMES less impact on air acidification (acid rain)
- less packaging waste (one pack of rechargeables = 93 packs of disposables)

Tips for Using Rechargeables

- Note: While rechargeables will work in most circumstances, they are not recommended for all devices and applications. Follow instructions from manufacturers when using any appliance.
- Keep extra batteries on hand to provide the convenience of common household batteries.
- Follow instructions for initial charging times (usually overnight) before using for the first time.
- Unplug chargers when not in use
- Use hand-powered, solar-powered, or plug-in equipment
- Pre-Cycle: Check if you have batteries before buying more. Batteries lose life with age so use the ones you have before buying more. Buy batteries as you need them. Some chargers can test battery strength, helping determine when to recharge, dispose of, or recycle your batteries.
- Extend Battery Life: Follow charging guidelines provided by manufacturers. If you're unsure, it's often better to fully discharge batteries, and let them cool before recharging. Do not mix battery types or new batteries with old ones; one used battery can prevent a device from working even if the other batteries are fresh. Remove batteries and plug the device in if you can. Remove batteries from equipment that will be stored. Store batteries in a cool, dry place. Clean the contact surfaces when installing your batteries so power will not be wasted.

Tips for When not to Use Rechargeable Batteries

There are times when it is best not to use rechargeable batteries. Do not use rechargeables for:

1. **Smoke detectors**
2. **Carbon monoxide detectors**
3. **Life support**
4. **When specific power requirements or battery life is important.**

Unless the manufacturer specifically details how to use rechargeable batteries for critical equipment, do not use rechargeable batteries.

If you are in doubt as to whether an appliance or a piece of equipment is suitable for rechargeable batteries, always use the recommend battery type. Rechargeable batteries may have a slightly different voltage that can effect the performance or damage equipment.

If recycling batteries are possible, always tape a non-conductive material over the leads to prevent exposure to short circuits. A piece of masking tape is a suitable insulator. If instructions are posted, always follow the recycling center instructions.

Any battery improperly used can cause personal injury and property damage such as fire.

Recycle rechargeables at these locations...

BEST BUY

2020 Grand River, Okemos
5216 W. Saginaw, Delta Twp.

CITY OF EAST LANSING

1800 E. State Rd. (Public Works)
819 Abbot Road (Hannah)
410 Abbot Road (City Hall)

CITY OF LANSING, Waste Reduction
601 E. South St., 2nd Floor, Lansing

COMPLETE BATTERY SOURCE
1754 Central Park Dr., Okemos

DENSTEADT'S HARWARE
3715 S. Cedar, Lansing

FASTENAL

1115 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing
4212 S. Creyts, Lansing
552 N. Cedar St., Mason

GRAINGER

5617 Enterprise Dr., Lansing

HOME DEPOT (service desk)
1749 Newman Rd., Okemos
836 S. Waverly, Lansing

KMART (electronics)

5400 S. Cedar, Lansing

LOWE'S (at return desk)

6821 S. Cedar, Lansing
320 Marketplace Blvd., Lansing

OKEMOS HARDWARE

2143 Hamilton Rd., Okemos

RADIOSHACK

1982 W. Grand River, Okemos
401 N. Clippert St., Lansing
6250 S. Cedar, Lansing
5421 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

SEARS (tool dept)

3131 E. Michigan, Lansing

TARGET (at electronics)

500 Edgewood Blvd., Lansing

WALMART (camera dept)

3225 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing

See a map at

www.capitalareagreenmap.org

Add your business! Visit:

www.call2recycle.org

To minimize safety risks, before dropping your rechargeable batteries or cell phones into the collection box, please place each individual rechargeable battery, or cell phone with battery, into a separate plastic bag. If plastic bags are unavailable at the collection location, you can cover the battery terminals with tape (electrical, duct, or masking).

Remember: ONE rechargeable battery or ONE cell phone with battery, per bag.

